

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 45

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 should be fully enforced so as to prevent needless suffering of animals.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2001

Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 should be fully enforced so as to prevent needless suffering of animals.

Whereas public demand for passage of Public Law 85–765 (commonly known as the “Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958”) (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) was so great that when President Eisenhower was asked at a press conference if he would sign the bill, he replied, “If I went by mail, I’d think no one was interested in anything but humane slaughter”;

Whereas the Act requires that animals be rendered insensible to pain when they are slaughtered;

Whereas on April 10, 2001, a Washington Post front page article reported that enforcement records, interviews, videos, and worker affidavits describe repeated violations of the Act and that the Federal Government took no action against a company that was cited 22 times in 1998 for violations of the Act;

Whereas the article asserted that in 1998, the Secretary of Agriculture stopped tracking the number of humane-slaughter violations;

Whereas the article concluded that scientific evidence shows tangible economic benefits when animals are treated well;

Whereas the United States Animal Health Association passed a resolution at an October 1998 meeting to encourage strong enforcement of the Act and reiterated support for the resolution at a meeting in 2000; and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce the Act fully: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. HUMANE METHODS OF ANIMAL SLAUGHTER.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture should—

6 (A) resume tracking the number of viola-
7 tions of Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et
8 seq.) and report the results and relevant trends
9 annually to Congress; and

1 (B) fully enforce Public Law 85–765 by
2 ensuring that humane methods in the slaughter
3 of livestock—

4 (i) prevent needless suffering;

5 (ii) result in safer and better working
6 conditions for persons engaged in the
7 slaughtering of livestock;

8 (iii) bring about improvement of prod-
9 ucts and economies in slaughtering oper-
10 ations; and

11 (iv) produce other benefits for pro-
12 ducers, processors, and consumers that
13 tend to expedite an orderly flow of live-
14 stock and livestock products in interstate
15 and foreign commerce; and

16 (2) it should be the policy of the United States
17 that the slaughtering of livestock and the handling
18 of livestock in connection with slaughter shall be car-
19 ried out only by humane methods.

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